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Recruiter ends stay at A&M today

VISTA, Peace Corps seek help

By LOUIE ARTHUR
Battalion Reporter

If you would like to spend a year or two in a foreign country or underprivileged area of the United States helping those who are less fortunate, Carol Harris, a Peace Corps and VISTA recruiter, would like to talk to you.

Today is the last day that Harris will have a table at the Memorial Student Center at Texas A&M University.

"We are looking for people that have a lot to give and are interested

in helping others," Harris said. Workers for the Peace Corps, a federal program which involves a two-year commitment, travel to developing nations to teach the people how to improve their lives. Roughly a third of the Peace Corps workers travel to Latin America, another third goes to Africa and the rest are divided between the eastern Caribbean, the southern Pacific and Asia — a total of 64 countries.

VISTA, or Volunteers in Service to America, requires a one-year commitment. The group works in

the United States, primarily in the poorer sections of urban areas. VISTA workers do a variety of jobs — anything from working in a half-way house to helping native Americans regain land and mineral rights.

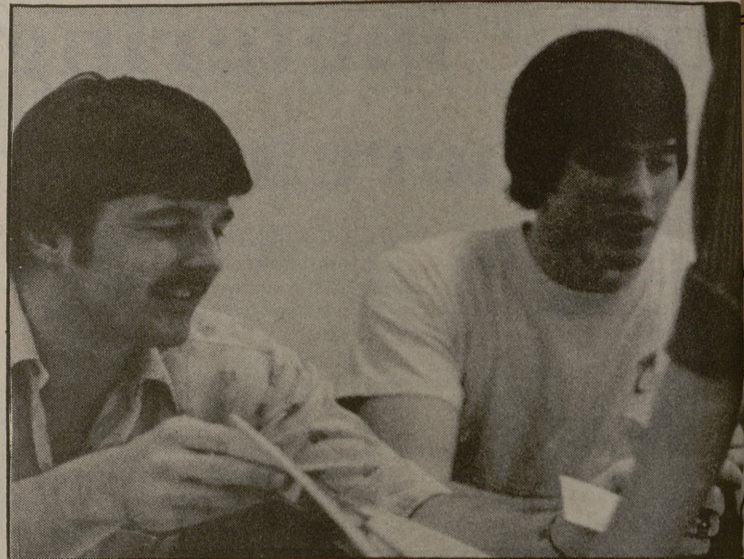
Harris said the jobs are not big money-makers, but they are rewarding because workers get the chance to help others. "It's just subsistence pay," she said. "When I was a VISTA volunteer I made \$250 a month — it's not easy to live on that in Dallas." "The people you are working with are usually a lot worse off financially

than you are so you don't really feel too poor," Harris said.

Both the Peace Corps and VISTA are programs in the federal agency, ACTION. They are looking for college graduates of all majors and people who have some skill that they could use, but Harris said that she would also like to talk to undergraduates.

There will be a Peace Corps office on campus after spring break, Harris said.

Harris said that the recruiters would probably be back some time in April, but anyone interested in talking to a representative between now and the end of spring break they can call her collect at the Austin office (512) 397-5925.



Steve Cook, left, a senior in finance, and Robert Zehm, a senior in accounting, help Carol Harris, Peace Corps and VISTA recruiter, get students interested in spending time in foreign countries. Today is the last day will be at a table in the Memorial Student Center. Battalion photo by Lynn Blane

Gay-line referral service gets mostly prank calls

By ROBIN THOMPSON
Battalion Reporter

Alternative, a local homosexual group, is having troubles with its call-in referral service — most of its callers aren't serious.

Roger, a worker with the Gay-line who asked not to have his last name revealed, says that 85 to 90 percent of the calls the group receives are pranks.

"I've never been to a place where people are so closed-minded," he said. Roger has lived in Houston and Austin.

"They feel so threatened when they see something they've never seen before."

The Gay-Line referral service, is operated by members of Alternative who are not trained counselors.

They are not allowed to give advice but can release names and phone numbers of professionals who can give advice.

For example, Roger said, the group might recommend a psychologist "for those who are having trou-

ble coping with gay life or with coming out." Roger said it also give names of doctors who will give medical advice to gays and names of pastors who will give religious counseling.

"Sometimes people just want to call and talk about their problems," he said.

Alternative is not associated with the Gay Student Services Organization, which has filed a suit against Texas A&M University.

The suit, which was filed in February 1977 when Texas A&M refused to recognize the organization, is now in the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans.

It is scheduled for review sometime at the end of this year, said Kim Platner, president of GSSO.

The Gay-Line is only one of the functions Alternative sponsors.

"We also have potluck suppers and speakers from different fields," Roger said.

Alternative has about 40 members, although Roger said a lot more than that attend the social functions.


Roger said Alternative is not concerned with the political aspects of being gay. "We just want to have social functions without social pressure," he said.

The number of the Gay-Line is 693-1630. It is open from 8 p. m. to 10 p. m. Monday through Thursday.

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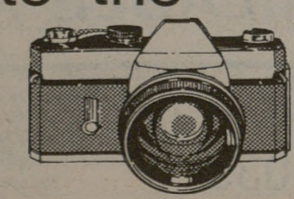
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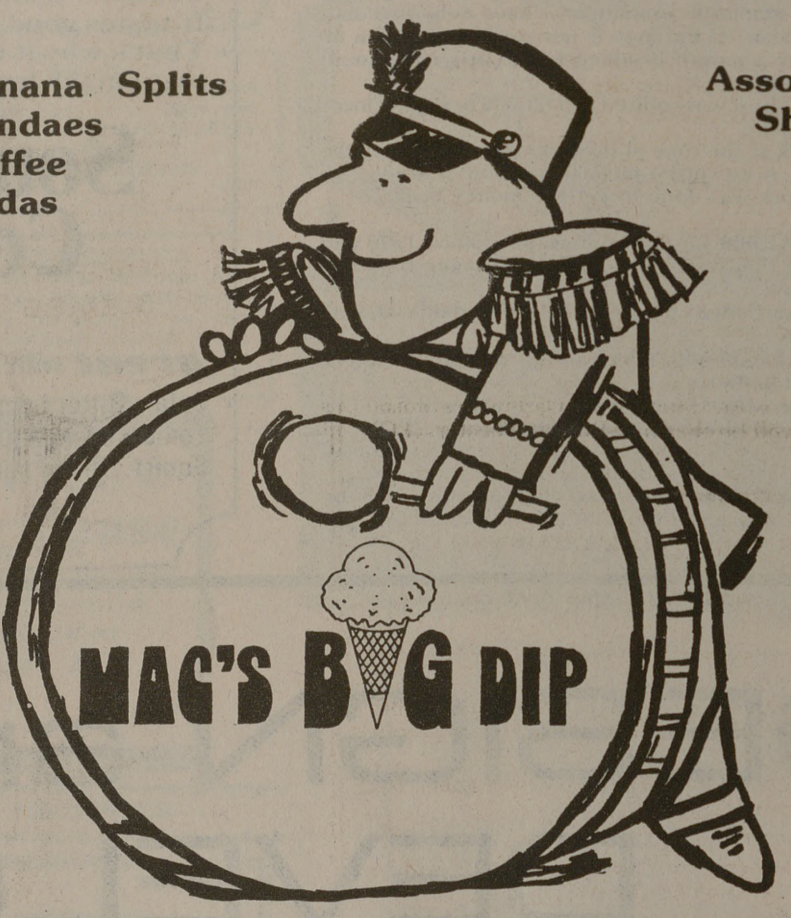
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